

IN THE CLAIMS:

This following list of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the above-identified application:

List of Claims

1. (Original) A closure for fixing to an open end of a container body,
the closure comprising a diaphragm bonded to an annular component,
the diaphragm having a centre panel which includes at least one concentric bead such that when the closure is fixed to a container and subjected to pressure differentials, the diaphragm is deflectable outwardly to give an increase in container volume,
and in which the profile of the diaphragm beaded panel is selected so that its downward form extends at most to the lowest plane of the annular component.
2. (Presently Amended) A The closure according to as defined in claim 1,
~~in which~~ wherein the maximum upward displacement of the diaphragm is no greater than the height of a seaming panel of the annular component.

3. (Presently Amended) ~~A The closure according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which~~ as defined in claim 1, wherein the diaphragm is bonded to a panel of the annular component, and that bonding panel extends in a first direction at an angle of 10° to 20° to the horizontal.
4. (Presently Amended) ~~A The closure according to any one of claims 1 to 3, in which~~ as defined in claim 1, wherein the annular component is a metal ring adapted for seaming to a metal can body.
5. (Presently Amended) ~~The combination of the closure of claims 1 to 4 and~~ claim 1 in combination with a cylindrical container, said cylindrical container including having a side wall having a height which is less than the diameter of the container.

6. (Original) A method of controlling in-can pressure during thermal processing, comprising:

bonding a panel to an inclined seal surface of an annular component;

stretching the panel;

fixing the annular component and panel bonded thereto to a filled can;

processing the contents of the filled and closed can by heating to temperatures of up to 135°C; and

providing, at least during the processing step, a generally dome shaped profile to the panel so as to provide an increase in can volume approximately equal to thermal expansion of the contents and gases in any headspace within the can.

7. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to as defined in claim 6, further comprising stretching the panel into a beaded profile which matches the fibre length of the generally domed shaped profile provided during thermal processing.

8. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 6 or claim 7, in which as defined in claim 6, wherein the inclined seal surface of the annular component is initially at an angle of from 10° to 60°, and the method further comprises reforming the seal surface to a shallower angle, or 0° after the processing step.

9. (New) The closure as defined in claim 2, wherein the diaphragm is bonded to a panel of the annular component, and that bonding panel extends in a first direction at an angle of 10° to 20° to the horizontal.
10. (New) The closure as defined in claim 2, wherein the annular component is a metal ring adapted for seaming to a metal can body.
11. (New) The closure as defined in claim 3, wherein the annular component is a metal ring adapted for seaming to a metal can body.
12. (New) The closure of claim 2 in combination with a cylindrical container, said cylindrical container including a side wall having a height which is less than the diameter of the container.
13. (New) The closure of claim 3 in combination with a cylindrical container, said cylindrical container including a side wall having a height which is less than the diameter of the container.
14. (New) The closure of claim 4 in combination with a cylindrical container, said cylindrical container including a side wall having a height which is less than the diameter of the container.
15. (New) The method as defined in claim 7, wherein the inclined seal surface of the annular component is initially at an angle of from 10° to 60° , and the method further comprises reforming the seal surface to a shallower angle, or 0° after the processing step.